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**NEW REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT ("FOIA")**  
**5 UNITED STATES CODE (U.S.C.) §552 et seq.**

Sunday, November 17, 2019

**VIA FAX: 1-212-637-5046, U.S. MAIL, and E-MAIL:**

r2foia@epa.gov  
Calderon.Wanda@epamail.epa.gov  
Calderon.Wanda@epa.gov  
Ms. Wanda Calderon, Government Information Specialist, Public Outreach Branch  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 26th Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866 USA

**VIA FAX: 1-212-637-5046, U.S. MAIL, and E-MAIL:**

McKenna.Douglas@epa.gov  
Mr. Douglas McKenna, Chief - Water Compliance Branch  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 26th Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866 USA

**Re:**

**The Citizens of Rockland County, New York**  
**adv.**

**Suez North America a/k/a "Suez New York Operations" a/k/a "Suez Environnement"**  
**f/k/a "United Water"**

Dear Ms. Calderon and Mr. McKenna:

As both of you may recall from our prior correspondence, I am an attorney in New York and a citizen and resident of Rockland County.

Under Title 5 of the United States Code, Section 552 (5 U.S.C. §552) ("FOIA"):

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/5/552>

request is hereby made that your office provide to this, my law office, full and complete copies of each and every record, document, and any other item of material (collectively, "Records"; or, in the singular as the context may require or suggest, a "Record") which may be at all responsive to the following itemized requests:

1. **Copper Sulfate, Copper, Sulfur, And Pesticide.** Each and every Record reflecting the application of, other use of, or the presence of, or absence of, any copper ("Cu"), sulfur ("S"), copper sulfate ("CuSO4"), Earthtec a/k/a "EarthTec", "aquatic weed control", algacide, bactericide, or other form of pesticide (collectively, "Pesticide"), in the entirety of or in any portion of any ground water, private

well, public water supply, reservoir, surface water supply, surface water, treated water, well, individual customer water source or water supply, or other collection of water or source of water (H<sub>2</sub>O) of any kind or nature located in whole or in part in Rockland County, New York, including without limitation the locations within Rockland County, New York known as “**Lake Deforest**”, “**The Lake DeForest Water Treatment Plant**”, “**Letchworth**”, and “**The Letchworth Water Treatment Plant**” (all such locations, Lake Deforest, The Lake DeForest Water Treatment Plant, Letchworth, The Letchworth Water Treatment Plant, and all other locations, collectively referred to hereinafter as the “Water Locations”) - at any time from the period **January 1, 2019** through and including the present day, **November 17, 2019** (such time-period referred to hereinafter as the “Time-Period”), including without limitation Suez’s thusfar-admitted applications of EarthTec aquatic weed control copper sulfate pesticide to Lake DeForest:

- (A). At 6:00 AM on **June 24, 2019**;
- (B). Again, in **September 2019**, and
- (C). Again, on **October 30, 2019**;

each application as evidenced by Suez’s written admissions in the attached/enclosed Exhibit “A”.

2. **Chlorine, And Phosphorus**. Each and every Record reflecting the application of, other use of, or the presence of, or absence of, any chlorine (“Cl”), or phosphorus (“P”), in the entirety of or in any portion of any of the Water Locations - at any time during the Time-Period.

3. **Volume**. Each and every record indicating:

- (A) The volume or quantity of chlorine, or
- (B) The volume or quantity of phosphorus, or,
- (C) The volume or quantity of each such application of any such Pesticide;

that is, in each case, all Records reflecting how many pounds, and all Records reflecting how many tons.

4. **Other Chemicals And Elements**. Each and every Record reflecting the presence or the absence of any other bacteria, organisms, chemicals, or other substances, in the entirety of or in any portion of any of the Water Locations during the Time-Period - in excess of the legally-acceptable limits, safe drinking water standards, or other guidelines for same.

5. **Corrective Measures**. As relating to the Water Locations and the Time-Period, each and every Record reflecting any testing, dosage, filtering, installation, modification, purification, treatment, verification, corroboration, or other process or corrective measure or measures taken or other reaction or response undertaken by any person or entity in response to the discovery or presence of any algae, algae bloom, blue-green algae, cyanobacteria, or other organic matter of any kind in or at any or all of the Water Locations - including without limitation any temporary or permanent shutdown of any pumps, pipes, devices, filtration units, machinery, or all or any other part of any water system.

6. **Suez And Affiliates**. As relating to the Water Locations and the Time-Period, each and every Record created, generated, materializing, or otherwise existing during or otherwise relating to the Time-Period which reflects any communication by, to, about, or otherwise referencing in any way, “Suez”, “*Suez Environnement*”, “*Gaz de France*”, “*Gaz de France Suez*”, “*GDF Suez*”, or any of their executives, principals, employees, contractors, agents, representatives, or any of their direct or indirect affiliates,

relating to the presence or absence of chlorine, phosphorus, or Pesticide in or at any or all of the Water Locations.

7. **Violations Of Laws**. As relating to the Water Locations and the Time-Period, each and every Record reflecting any “reporting violation” or other past, present, future, or anticipated violation of federal, state, county, town, local, or other ordinance, rule, regulation, requirement, or other law or standard by “Suez”, “*Suez Environnement*”, “*Gaz de France*”, “*Gaz de France Suez*”, “*GDF Suez*”, or any of their executives, principals, employees, contractors, agents, representatives, or any of their direct or indirect affiliates - including without limitation any violation of the Rockland County Sanitary Code, the New York State Sanitary Code, Part 5, and all other rules, regulations, or other laws enforced by or otherwise relating to or concerning the Rockland County Department Of Health (RCDOH), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Department Of Justice (USDOJ), U.S. Attorney’s Office (USATTY), Federal Bureau Of Investigation (FBI), New York State Attorney General’s Office (NYSAG), New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Department Of Health (NYSDOH), New York State Public Service Commission/Department Of Public Service (NYSPSC), and all other relevant or related authorities.

8. **Exhibit “A”**. Attached to/enclosed with this FOIA request, as its “Exhibit A”, are copies of Records of which I am already in receipt regarding the presence of algae, algae blooms, harmful algal blooms (HABs), and copper sulfate pesticide in Rockland County, New York’s water-supply allowed by Suez during the Time-Period (collectively, “Pre-Existing Records”). This FOIA further requests each and every Record making any reference to any of the Records annexed hereto as Exhibit “A”, or any reference to text or communications or materials contained in them, including without limitation any and all prior, contemporaneous, and subsequent drafts of the Pre-Existing Records.

9. **Definition Of “Records”**. “Records” should be construed in the broadest sense possible and include records in any format including without limitation a hard-copy format or an electronic format:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/5/552>

including without limitation all audio recordings, blogs, blog posts, correspondence, data maintained electronically, data, dossiers, e-mails, executive summaries, extracts, digests, faxes, handwritings, inscriptions, instant messages (IMs), Internet posts, Internet writings, letters, logs, log-books, log-book entries, memoranda, memoranda of conversations (MEMCONs), memos, notes, paper records, paper, personal messages, recordings, social media communications, social media text, spreadsheets summaries, synopses, telephone records, test-reports, transcripts, tweets, visual recordings, and any other materials.

10. **Headings**. The headings to numbered Items #1 through #10 hereinabove are for your convenience of reference purposes only, and should not be construed to be words of limitation or otherwise of any substantive significance relative to this FOIA request.

If there are any copying or other fees for this, please let me know what they are and how they are calculated, before fulfilling the request and forwarding the Records to me. As this FOIA should be considered a matter of public importance, and as its results will be shared with the general public, I am asking that any otherwise-applicable fees be waived for this Record-production. I am also asking that all Records be provided to me electronically to the full extent possible, so as to obviate the need for any photocopying expense.

As always, I will appreciate a response from you and your office as soon as possible. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

In the event that any portion of my request is denied, please inform me of each of the specific reasons for any such denial in writing - and provide me with the name, address, and other contact information of the person or entity to whom an appeal should be directed.

This FOIA request is not intended to be exhaustive, and I may well need to make additional or follow-up requests. Your full cooperation is anticipated and appreciated.

Respectfully, with thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John J. Tormey III'. The signature is stylized with a large 'J' and 'T'.

John J. Tormey III, Esq.

Attorney and Spokesman - ***Dump Suez***



Jul 11 at 9:13 PM

## Pesticide Treated Water

**WARNING** - portions of this reservoir: Lake DeForest have been treated with a pesticide: Earthtec for aquatic weed control. Do not bathe or swim in treated water until day after treatment. Do not enter treatment area during pesticide application.

Restrictions on the use of these treated waters are as follows:

No Swimming & Bathing Until: <i>Prohibited at all times</i>	No Fish Consumption Until: <i>No Restrictions</i>
No Irrigation Until: <i>Prohibited at all times</i>	No Drinking Until: <i>No Restrictions</i>
No Livestock Watering Until: <i>Prohibited at all times</i>	

**DATE/TIME OF TREATMENT:** 6/24/19 - 6:00 AM

**SUEZ Water New York, Inc.**  
360 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994 (877) 426-8962

The above restrictions were promulgated by the USEPA and NYSDEC.  
This poster may be removed after the expiration date and time.

SUEZ  
360 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994  
877.426.8969



May 17, 2018

Dear Customer:

SUEZ utilizes a variety of water supplies to meet our customers' needs. These include ground water from wells and surface water from reservoirs. Different purification processes are required for each source of supply to ensure that the treated water meets all safe drinking water standards.

For most of the year, you typically receive ground water from our wells. However, in order to meet increased demand in the warmer weather, we put the Letchworth Water Treatment Plant online in the spring. Because you will receive water from a surface water supply, you may notice that the water has a different taste. This difference should become less noticeable as time goes by. Please be assured that there are no associated health issues and the water will continue to meet safe drinking water standards.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and to keep you informed about your water service. If you would like additional information, please contact our customer service center at 877-426-8969 or [sueznycustserv@suez-na.com](mailto:sueznycustserv@suez-na.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris Graziano", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Graziano  
Vice President and General Manager

[www.mysuezwater.com](http://www.mysuezwater.com)

finer

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Phone: 877-987-WCBS

# Health Department Called In To Investigate Rockland Water's 'Earthy' Odor, Taste

**PETER HASKELL**

NOVEMBER 13, 2019 - 4:00 PM

**CATEGORIES:** Local News

**CLARKSTOWN, N.Y. (WCBS 880)** — Some Rockland County residents continue to complain that their tap water has a strange odor and taste, despite SUEZ Water maintaining the water is safe.

Residents who were served by Lake DeForest say the water still seems off.

"I would detect some funkiness in the water, what they call an 'earthy type' of smell and taste," said John Tamm, III, of Deed, Dineen & Associates.

<https://wcbs880.radio.com/articles/news/health-department-investigates-rockland-water-s-odor-taste>

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Spokesman Bill Madden said.

Madden says the weather conditions allowed algae to bloom in the Lake DeForest Reservoir. That algae has resulted in what SUEZ calls an “earthy” taste and odor to its water, but notes it’s nothing to worry about.

Still, residents remain concerned and state Sen. David Carlucci has now asked the Health Department to investigate.

“It detects for accelerated levels of bacteria that may lead to infection and also, it detects for any type of organisms or chemicals that might pose a risk to the health of the residents consuming this water,” Carlucci said.

Results from the state Health Department are expected by the end of the week and SUEZ’s Madden believes the findings will be good.

“Our water has all safe drinking water standards,” he assured.

He adds there is no current plans to give customers a refund for their water service.

**TAGS:** Newsletter, All Local, Rockland County, Water Supply, SUEZ Water Technologies

LOCAL

NATIONAL

METS

Things To Do This Weekend In The Tri-State Area: November 15-17

'Junior's Law': Bill Would Require Small Businesses To Install Panic Buttons

NYPD Offers \$10K Reward For Help In Aamir 'Buddy' Griffin Case

Long Island Police Warn Residents To Be Wary Of 'Porch Pirates'

Police Charge Man With 1987 Killings Of Father, Son

Brooklyn Bishop Tapped To Investigate Clergy Sex Abuse Accused Of Sex Abuse

Health Department Called In To Investigate Rockland Water's 'Earthy' Odor, Taste

911 Texting System Expected To Arrive In NYC Next Summer

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Miller High Life Brings Back Champagne Bottles For the Holiday Season  
November 13, 2019



Abandoned 'Unicorn' Puppy from Missouri Has Tail Growing from Forehead  
November 13, 2019



World's Largest Starbucks Opening in Chicago  
November 13, 2019



The Best and Worst U.S. Cities for Single People  
November 13, 2019




7 Unique Thanksgiving Side Dish Recipes That Guests Will Love  
November 13, 2019




Arby's Apologizes for 'Shocking' Sign About Children  
November 13, 2019

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PODCASTS




Bill Would Require Small Businesses To Install Panic Buttons  
- November 14, 2019




NYPD Offers \$10K Reward For Help In Aamir 'Buddy' Griffin Case  
- November 13, 2019




Police Warn LI Residents To Be Wary Of 'Porch Pirates'  
- November 13, 2019



1st Day Of Public Impeachment Hearing Concludes  
- November 13, 2019



Brooklyn Bishop Investigating Clergy Sex Abuse Accused Of Abuse  
- November 13, 2019



Councilman Proposes Tracker For DOI Investigation Outcomes  
November 12, 2019

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PART OF RADIO.COM NEWS.

https://wcbs880.radio.com/articles/news/health-department-investigates-rockland-water-s-odor-taste

4/4

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SUEZ Water New York

September 19, 2018 ·



Holly DieFreundliche  
Krankenschwester

November 11 at 5:36 PM

I read your recent statement regarding the water in Rockland County ... See More

2 Likes · 3 Comments



Like · Comment



Beth Davidson

November 11 at 4:21 PM

My water in Nyack, NY is undrinkable! Hot water smells like recently... See More

Like · Comment



Jacq Po

November 4 at 5:18 PM

I have a question? Do I get reimbursed for undrinkable water?

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Like · Reply · 1d



**Meg Brian Walsh** Blauvelt ny water still bad no improvement smell bleach like fertilizer smell

Like · Reply · 2d



**Richard Koch** They named themselves after a famously polluted canal. Why is ANYone surprised? Time to return water utilities to public hands.

Like · Reply · 2d



**Lee Deb** Sorry but this is BS. My water smells like bleach and tastes like dirt!

Like · Reply · 2d



**Debbie Lionelli LaMorgese** That's it

Like · Reply · 3d



**Roe LaMarca** It still tastes bad, nothing has changed.

Like · Reply · 3d



**Curly Sue** Exactly,. Sometimes it's even tanish.... Gross, my hair and skin are suffering from this terrible water over the years....

Like · Reply · 3d



Write a reply...



**Patty Rohan Imbarrato** So what treatment was used?

Like · Reply · 2d



**SUEZ Water New York** SUEZ requested and received two special permits from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation to apply copper sulfate in September and October. The most recent treatment was Wednesday, Oct. 30. Copper sulfate is used by water providers around the world to help reduce algae levels and associated tastes and odors.

Like · Reply · 2d



**Isaac Itzik Shachar** SUEZ Water New York Hi,can we see how ,where water treatment,cleaning, filtering done, maybe a video or else, thanks

Like · Reply · 2d



**Michael Duda** SUEZ Water New York, do you mean this stuff: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copper\(II\)\\_sulfate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copper(II)_sulfate)



**Holly DieFreundliche**  
**Krankenschwester**  
November 11 at 5:36 PM

I read your recent statement regarding the water in Rockland County ... See More

2 Likes · 3 Comments

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**Beth Davidson**  
November 11 at 4:21 PM

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**Jacq Po**  
November 4 at 5:18 PM

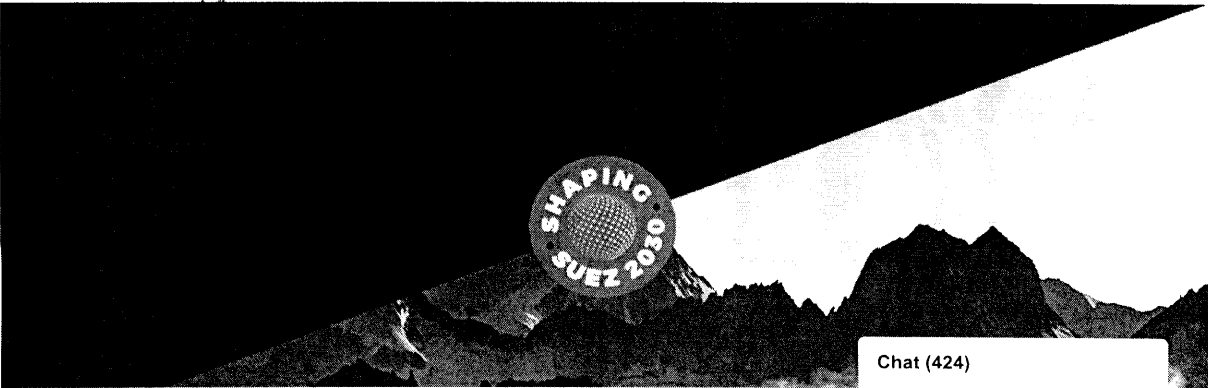
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Write a reply...



Curly Sue What about the bleach smell coming from the water?

Like · Reply · 3d

1



**SUEZ Water New York** Hello Curly Sue. Chlorine is an important part of the water treatment process. Water companies are required to use chlorine to make sure that the water is free from bacteria and other substances which cause illnesses. Some people may be more sensitive to the smell of chlorine used for this purpose.

Like · Reply · 2d

3



**Rosemarie Pacelli Simpson** SUEZ Water New York still smells and tastes like chlorine! There's got to be a better alternative.

Like · Reply · 2d



**SUEZ Water New York** Rosemarie Pacelli Simpson Some people are sensitive to the smell of chlorine. The use of chlorine is required to make sure that the water is free from bacteria and other substances that can make you sick.

Like · Reply · 1d



**David Zatz** The reason we need so much bleach in the water is Suez developing houses on the land near the reservoirs...

Like · Reply · 4h



Write a reply...



Steven Carroll



Like · Reply · 1d

1



**Debbie Lionelli LaMorgese** It's all BS!

Like · Reply · 2d

1



**Daniel Shearer** This is a sponsored link. They paid money to tell me this.

Like · Reply · 1d



**Holly DieFreundliche Krankenschwester**

November 11 at 5:36 PM

I read your recent statement regarding the water in Rockland County ... See More

2 Likes · 3 Comments

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**Beth Davidson**

November 11 at 4:21 PM

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**SUEZ Water New York** Ms. Sterlace, please call us so we can look into your concern further. 877-426-8969

Like · Reply · 1d



**Marie Sterlace** If any of you order please put the words, "GetHealthy" in the coupon code section when placing order!

Like · Reply · 1d

[Write a reply...](#)[Write a comment...](#)**SUEZ Water New York**

November 11 at 7:10 AM ·



44

1 Comment

**Holly DieFreundliche Krankenschwester**

November 11 at 5:36 PM

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2 Likes · 3 Comments

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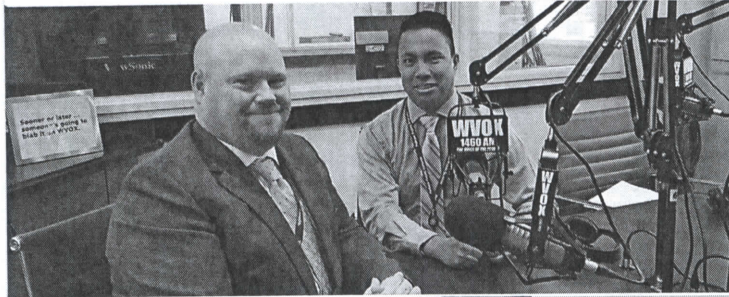
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Holly DieFreundliche  
Krankenschwester

November 11 at 5:36 PM

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2 Likes 3 Comments

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Beth Davidson

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SUEZ Water New York

November 7 at 9:48 PM ·

SUEZ's Bill Madden hosted local students at tonight's Rockland Business Association's annual banquet at Paramount Country Club. At left are North Rockland High School's Academy of Finance students Joseph Giannella and Jordan Luttinger; At right are St. Thomas Aquinas College students Sean Flaherty and Angela McDonnell.



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SUEZ Water New York

November 7 at 6:00 AM ·

Thanks, North Rockland High School for inviting us to take part in Career Day. SUEZ engineer Dan Schoenfelder enjoyed chatting with students about careers in the water industry. North Rockland Central School District



25

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Write a comment...

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Holly DieFreundliche  
Krankenschwester

November 11 at 5:36 PM

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## Where is the credit for our bad tasting water?



Please sign this petition if you stand in support of Senator David Carlucci calling on Suez Water New York to issue a monetary credit to customers in Rockland County whose water has been impacted by an algae bloom in Lake DeForest reservoir.

Vice President of Suez Operations, Chris Graziano informed customers last week that, "while Suez is taking steps to monitor and minimize the impact of this issue, it is mainly related to weather and other conditions that are not under our control." Since Suez admits that they cannot fix the problems, but only "minimize the impact," customers should not have to pay the same price for their water. The water quality no longer meets its usual standards and customers do not feel comfortable using or drinking the water that they are paying for. Until the problem is mitigated, customers' bills should be adjusted with an adequate credit refund.

Further, Suez did the testing of their water to ensure that it meets safety standards. Senator Carlucci is calling on the State Department of Health to also test the water.

FIRST NAME \*

LAST NAME \*

EMAIL ADDRESS \*

A valid email address is required in order to confirm your account.

HOME ADDRESS SEARCH OR ENTER YOUR ADDRESS MANUALLY \*

Search by street, city, state

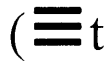
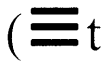
- ✓ **Create an account.** An [account \(/why-you-should-create-account\)](/why-you-should-create-account) allows you to sign petitions with a single click, officially support or oppose key legislation, and follow issues, committees, and bills that matter to you. When you create an account, you agree to this platform's [terms of participation \(/policies-and-waivers\)](/policies-and-waivers).



SIGN THE PETITION

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NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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## SUEZ NY Exploring Options for Algae Bloom Issue in Lake Deforest

November 6, 2019 By Jeff Lewis

The water in Rockland is safe to use and drink, despite an earthy color and odor for some customers. That's according to the company, which blamed the situation on an algae bloom in Lake Deforest due to a lack of rain. SUEZ Director of External Affairs, Bill Madden, says the company is working to resolve the issue...

0:00 / 0:23

SUEZ got two special permits from the State DEC to use copper sulfate to help reduce algae levels and the objectionable taste and odor.

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Clouds and sun; not as cold

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Hourly		now:	
4pm	Mostly cloudy	42°	
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6pm	Mostly clear	39°	
7pm	Partly cloudy	34°	0%
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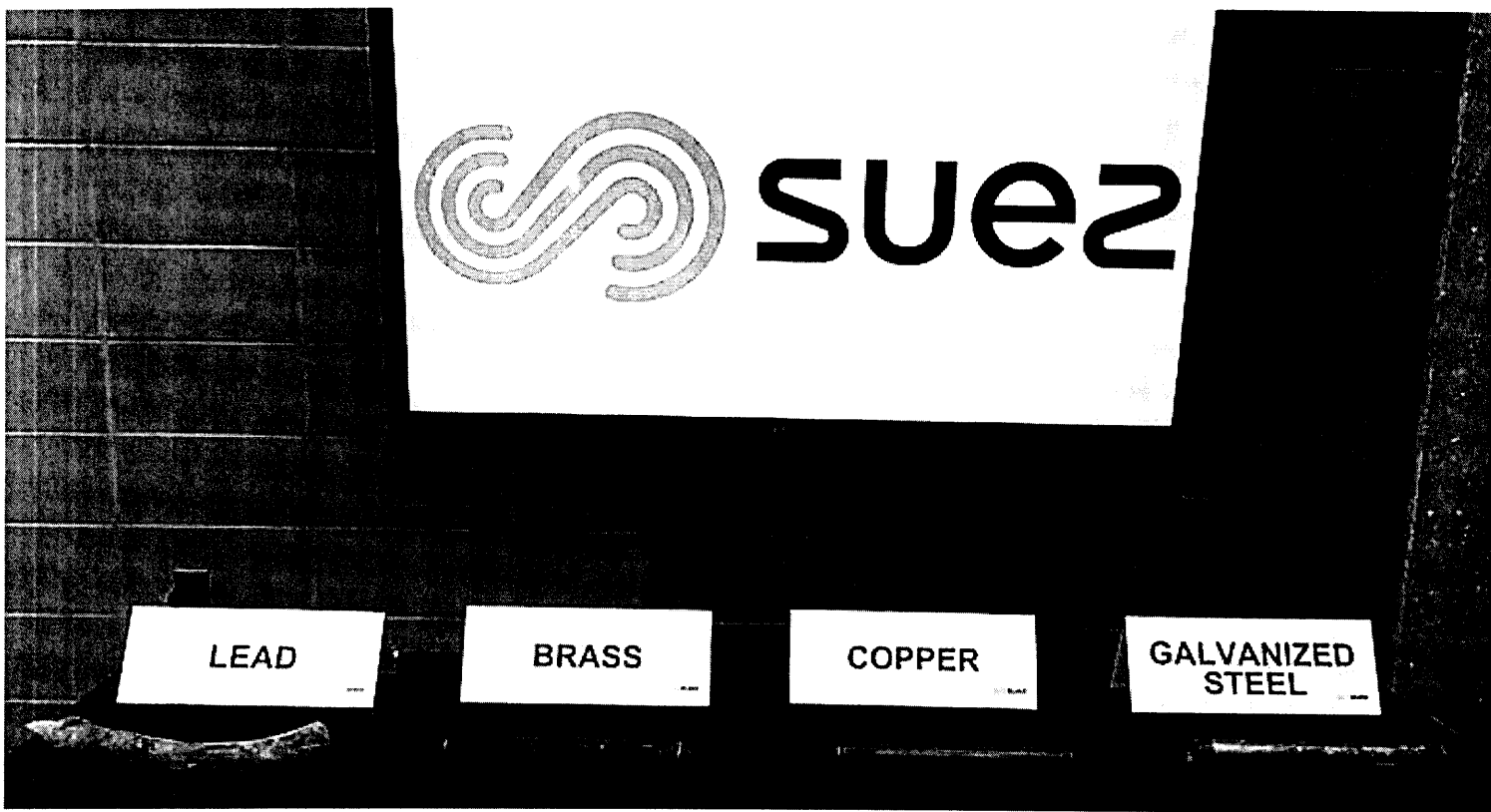
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# Rockland Residents Complain Of Odor, Foul Taste In Water

**STEVE BURNS**

NOVEMBER 05, 2019 - 8:56 PM

**CATEGORIES:** Local News

**NEW YORK (WCBS 880)** — SUEZ Water is maintaining its water in Rockland County is safe to drink, despite the unusual taste and smell.

Spokesman Bill Madden blames the strange odor and taste that residents have been complaining about on the unusually hot and dry fall.

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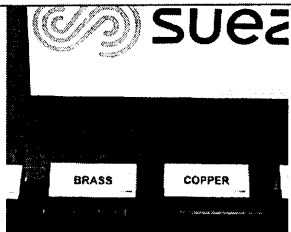
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## Rockland Residents Complain Of Odor, Foul Taste In Water

But, Madden says testing has confirmed the water is “safe to drink, cook with and bathe.”

He notes the reservoir has gotten some extra treatment but it will be a matter of time to see if the water’s scent and taste improves.

### **EXTRA: SUEZ's Message To Customers**

“We are waiting for Mother Nature to help us on this situation,” he said.

The Rockland County Department of Health said it is monitoring the situation closely.

“The Rockland County Executive and the Rockland County Health Department are aware of the concerns about the quality of drinking water affecting certain regions in Rockland. This unpleasant taste and odor results from the natural seasonal die-off of algae in Lake DeForest that occurs as colder weather approaches. This is not acceptable; however, no Public Health threat exists with this current situation,” Rockland County Spokesman John Lyon said.

Madden says conditions should be mitigated very soon, but he declined to give an exact timeline.

“We pay some of the highest rates in the nation for our water,” State Sen, David Carlucci says. “We demand a quality product.”

Carlucci is looking for answers from the water company. He says he's heard from many who don't feel comfortable drinking the water.

“The water company has to be responsible. They have to issue a credit for the repairs,” Carlucci said

Madden says there are no current plans to give customers a credit.

Suez says it is exploring long term solutions to keep this from happening again, which would involve investments at its treatment plant.

**TAGS:** Newsletter, All Local, Rockland County, Water Supply, SUEZ Water Technologies

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# MESSAGE TO OUR ROCKLAND CUSTOMERS Update On "Earthy Taste"

Nov 11, 2019

Over the past few weeks, some of you may have noticed an earthy taste and odor in your drinking water. This was caused by an unusually dry August and September that sparked a naturally occurring algae bloom in our Lake DeForest Reservoir.

This condition typically goes away by itself, but we worked with the state and received special approval to treat the reservoir twice in the past six weeks to relieve the situation. This has helped significantly improve conditions and we expect that the issue will be gone soon.

At no point was the safety of your water compromised as we worked with the Rockland County Health Department to monitor water quality on a daily basis. We do, however, want to apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you and your family.

We also wanted to inform you that in addition to the short-term action we took these past few weeks, we have plans to address this issue long-term through a multi-million dollar commitment to improve water treatment at our Lake DeForest water treatment facility in West Nyack.

We will continue to share our progress on this issue because your water quality is our most important commitment to you. If you continue to experience this issue or have any other questions, please call our Customer Service department at 877.426.8969 or comment on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SUEZwaterNY](http://www.facebook.com/SUEZwaterNY) (<http://www.facebook.com/SUEZwaterNY>).

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